

In this relatively open environment, conditions seem ideal for this savanna species, as food resources, both seeds and insects, are abundant during the rainy season. Lavender Firefinches can often be seen foraging with other estrildines (*L. senegala*, *Estrilda bengala*). We can regard these species as forming a guild, in Blondel's sense of "un groupe d'espèces affines qui fréquentent et se partagent, selon des modalités parfois très subtiles, un type de ressources du milieu".

We should stress that we found nesting Lavender Firefinches extremely shy and secretive, which probably accounts for the fact that their nest has hitherto remained unknown.

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ON THE NAME "FRIENDLY GROUND-DOVE"

The common name of *Gallicolumba stairi* has long been "Friendly Ground-Dove" (most recently Watling 1982, *Birds of Fiji, Tonga and Samoa*; Sibley & Monroe 1990, *Distribution and Taxonomy of Birds of the World*; Clements 1991, *Birds of the World: A Check List*) or its variant "Friendly Quail Dove" (Howard & Moore 1991, *A Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World*). However, some authors have objected to applying the term "Friendly" to this very shy species. Watling (*loc. cit.*) wrote "The Friendly Ground-Dove has a most inappropriate common name, since far from being friendly it is a timid, wary bird, the usual sighting being a brief glimpse of a brown bird flying swiftly away". Clunie (1984, *Birds of the Fiji Bush*) instead used "West Polynesian Ground-Dove". Pratt *et al.* (1987, *A Field Guide to the Birds of Hawaii and the Tropical Pacific*) coined "Shy Ground-Dove", and commented: "Other name: Friendly Ground-Dove. This ridiculous and misleading name is well entrenched in the literature, but virtually every author has felt the need to remark about its inappropriateness. Perhaps the name originated as a bad joke. We suggest the above alternative [Shy Ground-Dove] so that future authors will not have to explain that the name is a lie."

The name "Friendly Ground-Dove" was neither a bad joke nor a lie. When it was coined, it was a simple and honest choice. Many birds of the Pacific islands are named after the archipelagoes they inhabit, especially if

no congeners are sympatric. Just in *Gallicolumba*, Pratt *et al.* listed as primary or alternate names: the Caroline Islands, the Polynesian, the Society Islands, the Tuamotu, the Marquesas, and the Palau ground-doves. Completing this list of geographically-named Pacific ground-doves is Friendly Ground-Dove. In years past, the archipelago now universally known as Tonga was called by English-speaking peoples "The Friendly Islands" (Stevenson 1988, *Webster's New Geographical Dictionary*). *Gallicolumba stairi* is the only ground-dove inhabiting "The Friendly Islands", and the type specimen is believed to have come from Tonga (Peters 1937, *Check-list of Birds of the World*, Vol. 3). Clearly, "Friendly Ground-Dove" referred to this species' home islands, not to its unfriendly behaviour. This name only became confusing when people forgot the name "Friendly Islands". If the long name "Friendly Islands Ground-Dove" had not been abbreviated for common usage there would have been no confusion.

Because this dove also inhabits Fiji and Samoa, Clunie's name "West Polynesian Ground-Dove" is geographically preferable, but this could be confused with the "Polynesian Ground-Dove" *Gallicolumba erythroptera*. As Pratt *et al.* (1987) is the standard field guide for Tropical Pacific birds, I support their simple and descriptive name "Shy Ground-Dove", because "Friendly Ground-Dove" has become universally misunderstood.

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#### RANGE EXTENSIONS OF ORANGE-CHEEKED PARROT AND WHITE-BROWED PURPLETUFT IN AMAZONIAN VENEZUELA

The Orange-cheeked Parrot *Pionopsitta barrabandi* is known to occur in west-central South America east of the Andes from southeastern Columbia and southern Venezuela through eastern Ecuador and eastern Peru to northern Bolivia and eastward to central Amazonas Brazil. In Venezuela it is recorded from the southern part of Amazonas province and the south-central part of Bolívar province. Its hitherto known northern limit in southern Amazonas is the junction of the Río Guaviare and Orinoco (Meyer de Schauensee & Phelps 1978, *Birds of Venezuela*). It is thus widely distributed but is regarded as rare or uncommon to locally common (Forshaw 1973, *Parrots of the World*; Hilty & Brown 1986, *Birds of Colombia*; Meyer de Schauensee & Phelps, *loc. cit.*). Its preferred habitat is humid evergreen forest to 500 m.

In the rainy season, on 23 and 25 July 1991, I observed a flock of 5 Orange-cheeked Parrots in an area about 5 km west of the Piaroa Indian village of Gavilán in the northwestern Amazonian territory of Venezuela. They were resting during the hot midday in a high canopy tree close to the